



(1) Publication number:

0 424 728 A3

②

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21) Application number: 90119392.0

(51) Int. Cl.5: **B07C** 3/00

② Date of filing: 10.10.90

3 Priority: 24.10.89 US 426617

Date of publication of application: 02.05.91 Bulletin 91/18

(a) Designated Contracting States: DE DK FR GB SE

B Date of deferred publication of the search report: 08.04.92 Bulletin 92/15

71) Applicant: International Business Machines Corporation **Old Orchard Road**

Armonk, N.Y. 10504(US)

(7) Inventor: Rosenbaum, Walter S. 7420 Westlake Drive, No. 1609 Bethesda, Maryland 20034(US) Inventor: Hilliard, John J. 2 Mercy Court

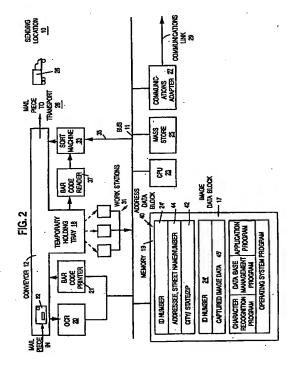
Potomac, Maryland 20854(US)

Representative: Herzog, Friedrich Joachim, Dipl.-Ing. **IBM Deutschland GmbH Schönalcher** Strasse 220 W-7030 Böblingen(DE)

- System and method for deferred processing of OCR scanned mall.
- (57) The invention is characterized as a data processing architecture and method for multi-stage processing of mail, using knowledge based techniques. The system includes OCR-scanning a multipart address field of a mail piece at a sending location, the address field including at least two portions, a first stage routing portion (destination city, state, country, zip code) and a second stage routing portion (destination street address, building floor, corporate addressee internal routing).

At the sending location, the image of the entire address field is captured by an OCR head and stored in memory. A serial number is printed on the mail piece. The first routing portion is then converted into sorting signals to sort the mail piece to a truck at the sending location.

While the mail piece is in transit on the truck, the knowledge processor completes its analysis and is able to transmit by electronic communications link to the destination location, the information that the mail piece is on its way and the second stage routing information needed to automatically sort and deliver the mail piece to its corporate addressee.



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 11 9392

gory		h Indication, where appropriate, vant passages		elevant o cialm	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CI.5)
,,					
	EP-A-0 327 472 (CESARIN	4I)	1,4	1,5,7,9	B 07 C 3/00
	* abstract; claims 2,3,8 *				
	* page 7, line 5 - line 8 * *				
Ą		ATIONS ENGINEERING vol. 6		,6,8,9	
	January 1988, LONDON pag	ges 225 - 231; R. W. POWELI	∴		
	'OPTICAL CHARACTER RE	COGNITION SYSTEM IN LET	r-		
	TER MECHANISATION'		ŀ		
	* page 226, right column, lin	e 39 - line 43 *	ŀ		
	* page 228, right column, lin				
	-			•	
Α	EP-A-0 148 783 (KABUSH	IKI KAISHA TOSHIBA)	1-3	3,9-11	•
	* abstract; claims 1,2,5; figur	re 1 * *			
			- 1		
			1		
					TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CI.5)
	-				SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
					B 07 C
					·¥:
			1		
			1		
					1
	The present search report has been drawn up for all claims				,
Place of search Date of completion of search					Examiner
The Hague		06 February 92	February 92		CHIARIZIA S.J
	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS E: earlie		earlier pat	ent docum	ent, but published on, or after
	particularly relevant if taken alone		the filing of		e application
	particularly relevant if combined with document of the same catagory				ie application other reasons
	technological background				